



SITUATION REPORT #134

INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: December 21, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	3205
Recovered	2539
Deaths	32
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	11
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	7
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) unable to update at DOH	32,192
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	179
College Place	427
Dixie	14
Prescott	62
Touchet/Lowden	48
Waitsburg	45
Walla Walla	2430
Total	3205



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Confirmed Cases by Age	
Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	388
20-39	1296
40-59	966
60-79	420
Over 80	135
Confirmed Cases by Gender	
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	1371
Male	1834
TOTAL	3205

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 12/23 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH has hired a nurse and a Local Health Officer
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH has 600 doses of annual Flu Vaccine for all residents
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH 'Health Space' and CREST training completed for health data management
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, December 22nd
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 12/28/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-2020121410157	12/14/20	WWCEM Tier 1 PPE Request	Delivered
WA-2020121410323	12/14/20	WWCEM Bulk BYD N95 Request	Delivered

December 21, 2020

- ## 2. Effective Strategies and Successes *(annotations for successes through the end of November archived to abbreviate this report)*
- DCH/PSMMC flu vaccine clinic at First Fruits; 700 doses administered.
 - PSMMC/EMS planning effort to provide rapid testing to first responder community.
 - Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
 - First responders have gone through PSMCC testing site(s) according to new plans giving them priority for rapid testing.



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- VA survey out to staff regarding “will staff get vaccination” (300 have completed the survey with a majority expressing interest in getting the vaccine).
- PSMMLC Lab Corp test turnaround is now 42 hours from arrival at Lab 12/21/20.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 3118
 - ❖ Recovered: 2514
 - ❖ Active: 634
 - Home Isolation: 623
 - ❖ Hospitalized: 18
 - 11 are Walla Walla County residents
 - 7 are Out of County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 32
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above):
 - ❖ 250 incarcerated active
 - ❖ 25 staff active
 - Positivity rate for 12/5/20 to 12/11/20 13.66%
 - Trends –
 - ❖ Some businesses with cases; DCH working with them to reduce transmissions
 - ❖ Still seeing cases related to holiday gatherings
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- ‘COVID fatigue’ is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- State is reporting a glove shortage; only order what you need.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Challenges presented by distribution of COVID vaccine.
- Large call volumes with questions about when vaccines will available.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.



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- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday. Meeting this Thursday, 12/17/20 at 1 & 6 PM, is with state legislative representatives to discuss business concerns.
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Will begin messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- PSMMC/DCH Vaccine Planning meeting Monday, December 14th, at 12 noon.
- DOH Vaccine Planning Partner call Tuesday, December 15th.
- PSMMC is now offering rapid testing for first responders through the Urgent Care drive through or College Place Express Care. Asymptomatic testing is available through drive through only.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition:
 - Seeing spread following holiday gatherings impacting larger hospitals; some patient transfers occurring.
 - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
 - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
 - Weekly workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
 - REDi Healthcare Coalition reporting larger hospitals across Eastern Washington are at 10-15% capacity, 70-80% if ICU beds occupied.
 - Looking at crisis standards of care planning.
 - Resources, staffing, and spacing are all 'tight.'
- DCH has a new Health Officer, Dr. Kaminsky.
- DCH has a nurse starting tomorrow; one nurse position still open.
- VAMC closed for testing on Christmas
- PSMMC started administering phase 1a (healthcare workers/EMS) COVID vaccine next week.



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- Veterans Administration is planning to receive vaccine during the next 48 hours. Will start vaccinating staff. If it does not arrive before Wednesday, staff vaccination will start after the new year.
- DCH working on phased guidance for groups

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- HOLIDAYS: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>
- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RECR, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office